

Development of the NASA Science Plan

NASA Advisory Council Science Subcommittees July 7, 2006

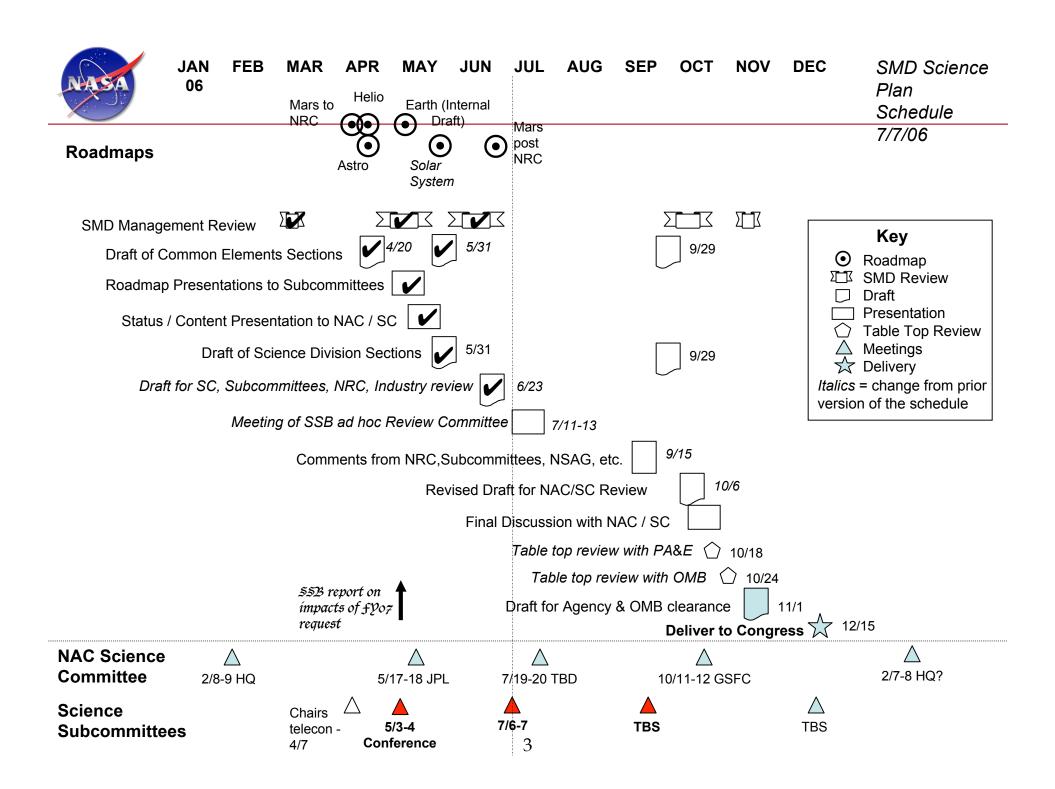
Greg Williams Science Mission Directorate



Congressional Req't for a Science Plan

NASA Authorization Act for 2005 (S.1281)
Title I Section 101

- (d) SCIENCE.— (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a plan to guide the science programs of NASA through 2016.
- (2) CONTENT.—At a minimum, the plan developed under paragraph (1) shall be designed to ensure that NASA has a rich and vigorous set of science activities, and shall describe— (A) the missions NASA will initiate, design, develop, launch, or operate in space science and earth science through fiscal year 2016, including launch dates; (B) a priority ranking of all of the missions listed under subparagraph (A), and the rationale for the ranking; and (C) the budget assumptions on which the policy is based, which for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 shall be consistent with the authorizations provided in title II of this Act.
- (6) SCHEDULE.—The Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under this subsection to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate **not later than 1 year after the date of enactment** of this Act.





FYI - NRC's Review Team

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- Carl Wunsch MIT

(Program management)

(Solar & space physics)

(Earth science)

(Solar & space physics)

(Earth science)

(Astrobiology)

(Space & Int'l policy)

(Galactic evolution)

(Planetary science)

(X-ray astronomy)

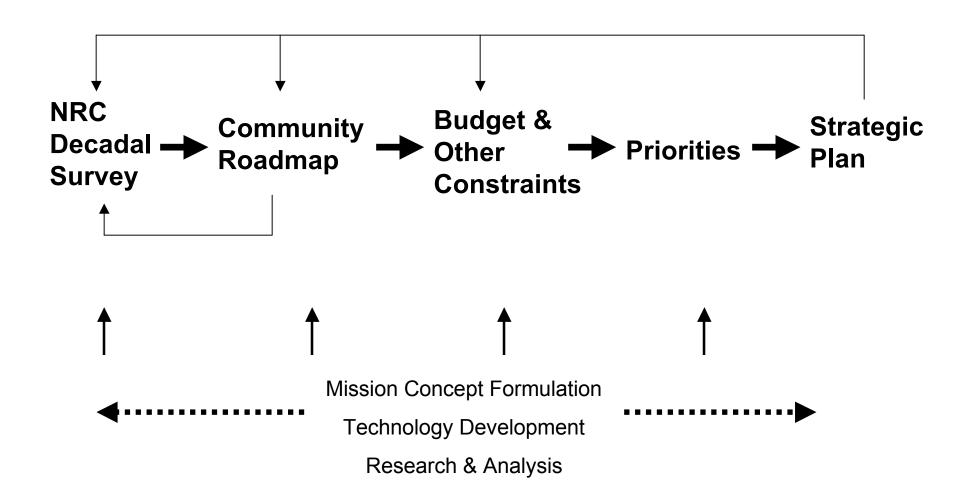
(Radio astronomy)

(Planetary science)

(Earth science)

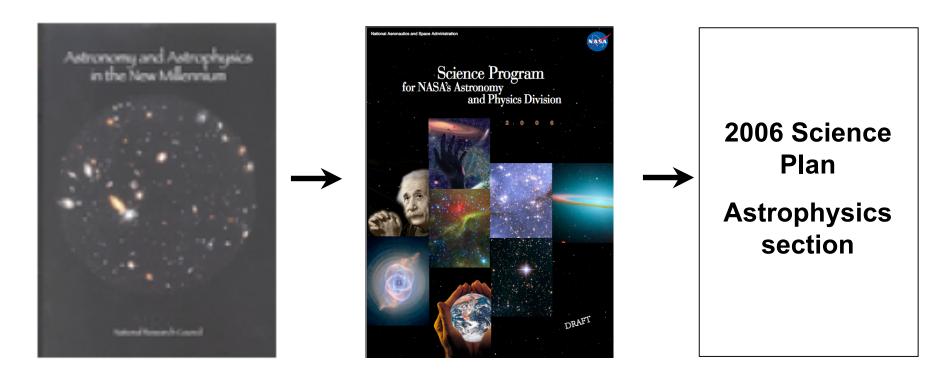


Generic Science Strategic Planning Flow





Astrophysics

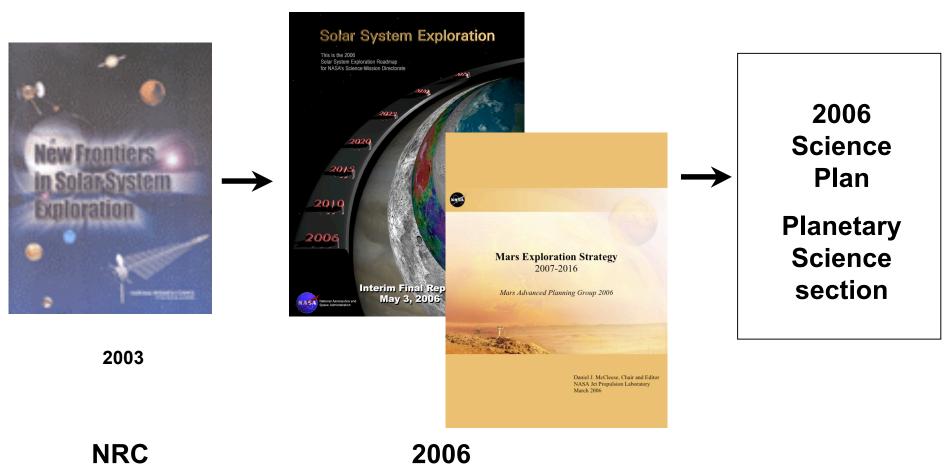


2001

NRC Decadal Survey 2006 Community Roadmap



Planetary Science



NRC Decadal Survey 2006 Community Roadmaps



Heliophysics



2002

NRC Decadal Survey 2006 Community Roadmap



Earth Science





Mission Prioritization: Degrees of Freedom Presumed

- Prioritizing by Division; not attempting a single prioritized list of all SMD missions
 - Language in report accompanying the Act called for a single list, but we've already told the Committee staff that is not possible
- Not including missions already in orbit
 - Describing in the draft Plan how we use the Senior Review Process to prioritize missions in extended operations phase
- Prioritization of Mars separately from the rest of SSE



Creating Lists of Prioritized Missions

- Prioritized competed missions / opportunities and strategic / core missions in same list
 - Decadal surveys bin them separately, but...
 - The budget process forces us to make trades
- The top priorities in each list have heritage in the NRC Decadal Survey in each area
 - For Earth Science, the top priorities for current missions reflect Congressional or Executive mandates; future representative mission concepts listed alphabetically
- Capture the logic that previously the launch order of missions currently in development
- Identify branch points where decisions on ultimate priority depends on future science findings, e.g., Beyond Einstein; Mars missions beyond MSL



Science Plan Draft Outline

- Preamble: NASA's Vision for Science
- Purpose & Progress
- Summary of Science Questions and Prioritized Missions
 - Principle requirement in the NASA Authorization Act
- Common Elements of Strategy
- Research Areas
 - Bulk of the Plan; a section for each of the four science areas
- Science Enabling and Enabled by Human Exploration
- Summary: On the Brink of Understanding
- Appendices



NAC Science Committee & Subcommittee Review of the Draft Science Plan

- Draft 3.0 for External Review sent to the NAC Science Committee, Subcommittees, NRC/SSB, and the NASA Science Associates Group on June 23
- SMD Division representatives will be present in the Subcommittee breakouts to aid in Subcommittee discussion of the draft Plan
 - For Chapter 2, NASA is principally interested the Subcommittees' comments on the rationale employed to create the prioritized lists of missions; is it sound and reflective of community roadmaps? If a Subcommittee wishes to comment on the priority order of specific missions, the Executive Secretary should call upon members to recuse themselves where conflicts of interest exist, as required by the governing ethics rules.
- Per NAC protocols, Subcommittee comments should be addressed to the NAC Science Committee chair with a copy to the Science Committee Executive Secretary (<u>Gregory.J.Williams@nasa.gov</u>)
 - The NAC Science Committee will discuss these in its upcoming meeting(s)
- Detailed comments from individuals and groups will be accepted through September 15



Science Plan Plenary / Next Steps

- The Science Plan Plenary in today's agenda is an opportunity for each Subcommittee to capture its first order comments and share them with the other Subcommittees
- Each Subcommittee will have 15 min; consider summarizing your discussions on:
 - Overall content of the Plan
 - Rationale for mission prioritization
 - Key comments on the science section of interest
- Over the next two months, NASA will be addressing open work items and identifying figures and graphics
- NASA will report on comments received and actions taken at the Fall NAC meetings

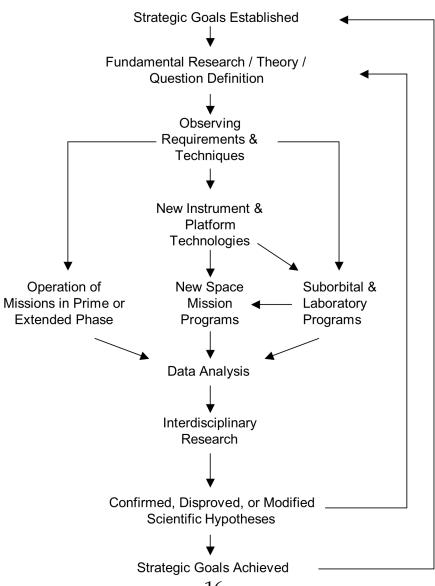


Back-up



Role of R&A in NASA

Figure 2.1: Doing Science at NASA





"The committee recommends that successful aspects of the robotic science program -- especially its emphasis on having a clear strategic plan that is executed so as to build on incremental successes to sustain momentum, use resources efficiently, enforce priorities, and enable future breakthroughs -- should be applied in the human space flight program."

Science in NASA's Vision for Space Exploration -- NRC 2005



Conference Report Accompanying 2005 Authorization Act

Section 101(d) directs the Administrator to develop a plan to guide the space science and earth science programs of NASA through 2016. The priority ranking required by this subsection is a single ranking of all the missions that NASA lists pursuant to paragraph (2)(A), not a ranking categorized by theme or any other category...

The conferees are aware that the National Academy of Sciences is continuing to work on an Earth Science and Applications from Space Decadal Survey which is due to be completed in 2006. In preparing the science plan, NASA should, to the greatest extent possible, take into consideration information available from the Decadal Survey. The conferees expect NASA to notify the authorizing committees if the completed Decadal Survey would change any of the information provided in the science plan.



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Suzanne Oparil University of Alabaman Association for the Advancement of Science

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Neil Cornish. Montana State University

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Brenda Dingus, LANL

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Fred Lo. NRAO

John Mather, NASA GSFC

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Belinda Wilkes, Harvard-Smithsonian

Center for Astrophysics

Blue font indicates AAS membership (~85 total) More than 120 individuals involved in the process